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242 therefore hope as yet to equal that of the more progressive countries of Western Europe, but it does exceed the average figure for Eastern Europe. The yield per hectare is 13-14 quintals for wheat and 12-13 quintals for barley and rye; the figure for oats is slightly below the figure for barley, owing to the havoc caused in recent years by rust.

241 Lithuania produces large quantities of cereals and pulse, a large part of which is, however, required for fodder. Forage is also obtained from wide areas of clover, meadowland and [233] pasture. Stock-breeding constitutes the principal agricultural activity : cattle, pigs, poultry. Lithuania used to be famous for her horses, which were exported in large numbers to Western Europe; now, however, there is very little export trade, and almost all the farm-work is done with horses.

Work in the fields generally begins in the second half of April and ends in about mid-November. The winter is long and farm work is concentrated in a relatively short period. The fact that the country is broken up into small farms, in conjunction with the low purchasing-power of the farmer, has prevented the mechanisation of agriculture on any very extensive scale. Cereals and pulse are generally machine-threshed, but most of the field-work is done by animal-drawn implements or by hand. There are a fair number of reapers, binders, seeders, hoers and other types of agricultural machinery, but these are employed only for part of the work; not all the peasant farmers are fortunate enough to possess them, so that a great deal must depend on human labour. This fact and the comparative shortness of the season means that the call for labour is greatest during the summer. Accordingly, a relatively large number of the population lives in the country and is intensively occupied during the season of work in the fields.

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439 The economic structure of Lithuania has determined the character of her trade with Germany. Lithuania disposes of her surplus agricultural production on the international market (in 1938, 40% of her exports were absorbed by the United Kingdom, 26.8% by Germany, 5.7% by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 4.5% by Belgium, etc.). Her imports consist mainly of manufactured products, including 33% from the United Kingdom, 24.4% from Germany, 6.7% from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 4.7% from the Netherlands and 3.8% from Belgium.

In 1938, exports totalled 233 million litai and imports 223 millions. One half of the exports consisted of foodstuffs (122 million litai : including butter 48 millions, bacon 24 millions,

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As regards *agricullural research*, the Institute of Agricultural Research (founded in 1927) is in charge of experimental work in the field of agriculture throughout the country, with the exception of the work conducted by the Agricultural Academy at Dotnuva. It has at present under its control seven experimental stations dealing with various matters relating to the cultivation of crops, an experimental fruit-growing station (in process of organisation), a crop improvement station (at Dotnuva), a crop protection station (at Dotnuva) and a station for research on the breeding of pigs for bacon. Proposals are under consideration for the foundation of an agricultural machinery testing station and of stations for research into cattle- and sheep-breeding respectively.

In consequence of these measures, and particularly the activities of the agricultural intelligence service, agriculturists have begun to introduce a more rational system of crop rotation, to prepare the soil more carefully and fertilise it more rationally (the progress of stock-breeding increases the quantities of manure available), to use better quality seed, to improve meadow- and pasture-land, to make more extensive use of agricultural machinery (through the foundation of co-operative societies for the joint use of machinery), etc. The results have been a decrease in the area of land left fallow and a corresponding increase in the area sown from an average of 2,079,000 hectares for the years 1928 to 1930 to 2,312,000 hectares for the period 1935 to 1937, the increase chiefly affecting the land under the more intensively cultivated crops (wheat, sugar-beet, mangel-wurzels). There has also been an increase in the yield per hectare of all the principal crops (wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas and potatoes), the yield from 1933 to 1937 being almost half as great again as during the years 1901 to 1910. It is worthy of note that, whilst the cultivation of sugar-beet was entirely unknown in the country before the war, the refineries now pay out almost 6½ million litai to the growers each year. The productivity of meadow- and pasture-land has increased to an even greater extent than that of arable land.

This latter circumstance has permitted the development of stock-breeding and the number of farm animals has risen considerably (in the case of cattle, for example, from 766,000 in 1913 to 1,172,000 in 1937). As a result of the organisation of milk control societies, breeding centres, the keeping of stud books, etc., the productivity of stock has also increased very considerably.

Progress has been particularly noteworthy in the case of cattle (which, in Lithuania, are mainly bred for the production of milk). In 1923, with a view to the transformation of surplus milk into exportable produce, chiefly butter, dairymen's co-operative societies were founded with the financial support